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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SCPN
SUBJECT:EA SEGMENTS OF EA PRESS BRIEFING (PASSAGE SPOKESMAN) 7/7/80
1. KOREA
PASSAGE WAS ASKED ABOUT REPORTS SK HAS DECIDED TO PUT KIM DAE JUNG ON TRIAL.
A: WE HAVE HEARD SUCH REPORTS FROM TIME TO TIME. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED OUR STRONG CONCERNS TO KOREAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE HANDLING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING KIM DAE JUNG. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN. WE BELIEVE IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THOSE CHARGED BE GIVEN ACCESS TO THEIR FAMILIES AND LEGAL COUNSEL, AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 178709
THAT ANY JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS BE FAIR AND BE OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS. WE HAVE, AS I SAID, MADE THESE POINTS REPEATEDLY TO KOREAN AUTHORITIES.
Q: HOW HAVE YOU MADE THOSE POINTS?
A: WELL, WE'VE MADE THEM BOTH IN SEOUL AS WELL, I ASSUME, AS HERE.
Q: IS THERE AN "OR ELSE" CONNECTED WITH THESE POINTS. IN OTHER WORLS, WILL ANYTHING HAPPEN IF THEY DECIDE TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR SCENARIO?
A: I DON'T THINK WE ARE TO THE STAGE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH KOREA THAT WE ARE AT AN "OR ELSE" STAGE. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN FORCEFULLY TO THEM. AND WE ASSUME THAT THEY WILL TAKE OUR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT.
Q: RATHER THAN "OR ELSE," WHICH IS THE END OF THE LINE, IS THE ADMINISTRATION PREPARED TO USE ECONOMIC OR MILITARY AID AS AN INFLUENCE ON KOREA?
A: I WOULDN'T WANT TO SPECULATE WHAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES. I AM CONFIDENT AND WE ARE CONFIDENT AS A GOVT, THE KOREAN GOVT IS WELL AWARE OF
UNCLASSIFIED
PAGE 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY AT DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
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THE STRENGTH OF OUR VIEWS. AND THE KOREAN GOVT ATTACHES SOME IMPORTANCE TO THOSE VIEWS.
Q: ARE YOU RESTRAINED OR CONSTRAINED IN WHAT THE US CAN DO BY KOREA'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE? IF IT WERE A SMALL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY, COULD IT HAVE GOTTEN AS FAR AS IT HAS GONE IN VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS WITHOUT THE US CRACKING DOWN?

A: WELL, I THINK IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN COUNTRIES - THEIR DIFFERENT STRATEGIC POSITIONS OR THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. I THINK THE BEST WAY TO SEE THE KOREAN EQUATION IS IN KOREAN-US TERMS, AND SIMPLY TO SAY THAT IF IT IS TRUE THAT KOREA IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE US, THEN SO ONE ASSUMES THE US IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO KOREA.
Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION THAT HELPS TO CORROBORATE THE CHARGES THE SK GOVT IS MAKING AGAINST THE PEOPLE THEY ARRESTED, ESPECIALLY KIM DAE JUNG?
A: WELL, THE SHORT ANSWER TO THAT WOULD BE PROBABLY NO. WE HAVE SEEN THE QUITE SWEEPING CHARGES THAT HAVE BEEN LEVELLED AGAINST KIM DAE JUNG AND AGAINST SOME OF THE OTHERS. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION OF WHICH WE WOULD BE AWARE THOSE CHARGES SEEM TO BE PRETTY FAR-FETCHED. SOME OF THE OTHERS HARDLY AMOUNT TO ANYTHING MORE THAN THE CHARGE THAT KIM DAE JUNG WAS CAMPAIGNING TO BE PRESIDENT. WE'RE JUST NOT SURE, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT THERE IS ANY USEFUL PURPOSE IN OUR ATTEMPTING TO ANALYZE ALL OF THE CHARGES THAT HAVE BEEN LEVELLED. I THINK OUR CONCERN REMAINS THAT IF THERE BE A TRIAL THAT THOSE CHARGED BE GIVEN ACCESS TO BOTH THEIR FAMILIES AND TO LEGAL COUNSEL AND THAT ANY TRIALS THAT ARE HELD BE FAIR AND OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.
Q: WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF YOUR CONCERN REGARDING THE LATEST REPORTS? HAVE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE, REPEATED YOUR URGING THAT THE TRIAL BE FAIR AND OPEN AND THE REST OF IT FOLLOWING THESE LATEST REPORTS OR IS THIS JUST A STANDARD POSITION THAT YOU'VE HAD?
A: WE HAVE BEEN MORE OR LESS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE KOREAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT THIS AT VARIOUS LEVELS. OUR TOUCH WITH THEM HAS BEEN, I'LL DESCRIBE IT AS, CONTINUOUS.

Q: WE CAN TAKE THAT YOU'VE REPEATED YOUR POSITION IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, SINCE THESE REPORTS SURFACED?
A: THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION AND OF THE STRENGTH OF OUR FEELINGS.
2. CAMBODIA
Q: YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD THAT THE GOVT OF INDIA HAS JUST ANNOUNCED AS OF JULY 7 IT HAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE HENG SAMRIN GOVT. ANY COMMENT ON

THAT?
A: WELL, THAT IS A DECISION WHICH BASICALLY IS SOVEREIGN DECISION MADE BY THE INDIAN GOVT. WE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY COMMENT. WE'VE SEEN THE REPORTS...
Q: BEFORE THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN DID THE US EXPRESS ANY OPINION OR OFFER ANY ADVICE TO THE INDIAN GOVT?
A: INSOFAR AS I AM AWARE, THEY HAVE NEITHER SOUGHT OUR ADVICE NOR HAVE WE VOLUNTEERED 'T.
Q: DO YOU BELIEVE THE UN SEAT SHOULD BE HELD BY THE POL POT GROUP?
A: I HAVE NO US POSITION, WHATEVER OUR POSITION WAS...THAT IS A BATTLE THAT TOOK PLACE BEFORE I JOINED THE SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT OUR HISTORIC POSITION IS. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE OF, OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT THE HENG SAMRIN GOVT IS ILLEGAL (INAUDIBLE)...AND AND GOVT SHOULD BE SOMETHING WHICH IS DECIDED UPON BY ALL CAMBODIANS WITHOUT OUTSIDE
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Q: YOU'VE SAID REPEATEDLY THAT NEITHER POL POT NOR HENG SAMRIN REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE STILL ARE STICKING TO THE POSITION THAT POL POT SHOULD KEEP THE UN SEAT RATHER THAN IT BEING TRANSFERRED TO HENG SAMRIN.
A: I WOULD LITERALLY HAVE TO GO TO THE RECORD. I KNOW OF NO CHANGE THAT HAS OCCURRED. HAD THERE BEEN A CHANGE I THINK I WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT.
Q: ASEAN MADE A RECOMMENDATION, IN THE COMPANY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND HE DIDN'T DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THESE SENTIMENTS. WOULD THAT A RK A SUBTLE CHANGE TOWARD POL POT?
A: NO; NOT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. ASEAN WOULD REACH ITS CONCLUSIONS FOR ASEAN'S PURPOSES. WE, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN INVITED OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS TO HAVE BILATERAL SESSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND ASEAN AFTERWARDS. I DON'T THINK THE MERE FACT THAT OUR SECRETARY OF STATE WAS THERE WOULD NECESSARILY ASSOCIATE US WITE AN ASEAN POSITION, DECIDED FOR ASEAN PURPOSES.
3. CHINA
PASSAGE WAS ASKED IF HE COULD SAY HOW LONG CARTER WOULD BE MEETING WITH HUA AND WHAT THEY WOULD BE DISCUSSING.
A: NOTHING ON EITHER. JUST FOR GUIDANCE PURPOSES, I WOULD GUESS THAT THE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE ON THE 10TH AND WOULD PROBABLY LAST FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. BUT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BE ANNOUNCED FORMALLY I'M SURE BY THE WE IN DUE COURSE. WHAT I TELL YOU IS FOR YOUR GUIDANCE.
Q: A GET ACQUAINTED KIND OF MEETING OR ARE THERE ANY TOPICS THAT THEY WILL TAKE UP AND TRY TO ACT ON?
A: I AM SURE THERE WILL BE SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR CONVERSATION.
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I KNOW OF NOTHING THAT REQUIRES ACTION, PROPERLY DEFINED. BUT THERE WILL BE AN AGENDA; THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STAFF, IT WOULD NOT COME FROM HERE.

Q: WOULD YOU SAY THAT WHATEVER APPEARS ON THE AGENDA WILL EXCLUSIVELY THE TOPICS DISCUSSED?

A: I DON'T THINK I'D EVER WANT TO GO THAT FAR.

Q: I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU IF ARMS FOR TAIWAN IS A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION AT THAT MEETING.

A: I HAVE SEEN NO AGENDA. WHEN AN AGENDA IS FIXED, I'D BE GLAD TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT. BUT I'D BE SURPRISED IF ANYTHING IS KNOWN BEFORE THAT ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE.

4. THAILAND

Q: WOULD YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE REPORT THAT THE THAI DEP FON MIN MET WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CLASHES AND THE HIGHLIGHTS, ACCORDING TO YOUR THAI ALLIES, THAT THE SOVIET UNION CONVEYED ITS GOOD WILL TOWARD THAILAND AND ASSURED IT THAT IT WAS SUPPLYING NO ARMS TO VIETNAM? HE TOOK THIS ON ITS FACE VALUE.

A: THAT'S THE SORT OF THING THAT WOULD BE ILL-MANNERED FOR THE US GOVT TO SPEAK ABOUT -- CONTACTS BETWEEN AN ALLY AND A THIRD PARTY. CHRISTOPHER

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